



2003 South Carolina Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey Highlights: Disease Prevalence

The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey is a cross-sectional telephone survey conducted annually to help determine behavior and risk factor prevalence in the fifty states and several US Territories. The survey consists of interviews conducted with randomly selected adults aged 18 years or older from sampled households. The sampling method used is a disproportionate stratified sample from all telephone-equipped dwellings in the states. The data is specifically weighted to match the State's population by several demographic factors.

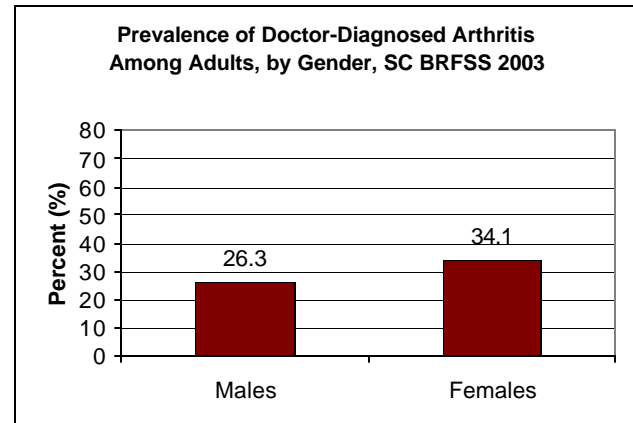
SC BRFSS is administered every year in cooperation with the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Questions included on the survey gather information about lifestyle choices such as smoking, alcohol consumption, weight control, cancer screening habits, and women's health issues. The results are used to determine health needs for the State of South Carolina and to measure progress towards National 2010 Health Objectives.

In 2003, 5,926 surveys were completed by Clearwater Research, Inc. for South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SC DHEC). South Carolina has been conducting the BRFSS survey since 1984.

This summary reports the prevalence of several diseases and syndromes among the adult population of SC in 2003.

Arthritis

In 2003, 30.4% of the adult population of South Carolina surveyed said that a doctor had told them they had arthritis. Of those with arthritis or chronic joint pain, 30.2% reported that they were limited in their activities due to pain and 29.4% reported that it affected whether they worked or the type of work that they did.

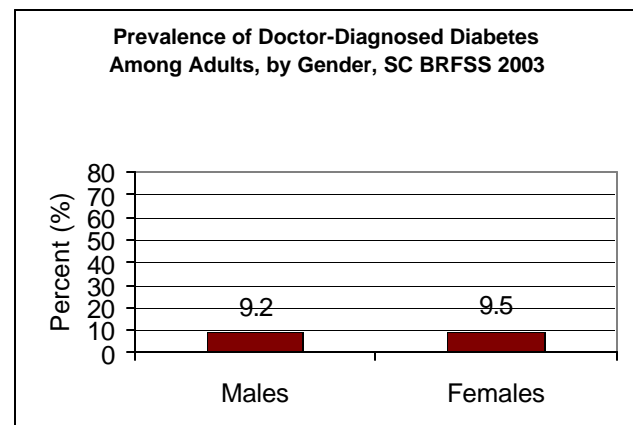


Asthma

Among South Carolina adults, 6.1% reported on the 2003 BRFSS that they currently had asthma. 10.1% surveyed replied that they had had asthma at sometime in their life. Women had roughly twice the prevalence of current asthma than men with rates of 8.2% and 3.9% respectively.

Diabetes

South Carolina ranked 8th in the nation for rates of doctor-diagnosed diabetes. 9.3% of adults in South Carolina had doctor-diagnosed diabetes. The prevalence of diabetes among adults has been increasing since 1997.



Of those who had doctor-diagnosed diabetes, 31.6% reported that they were on insulin, 26.5% reported that they had been told that diabetes had affected their eyes, and 11.8% had had sores or irritations on their feet that took longer than 4 weeks to heal.

Oral Health

In 2003, 7.0% of respondents to the SC BRFSS had had all their permanent teeth removed. The prevalence for having permanent teeth removed was 7.7% for females and 6.2% for males.

Cardiovascular Disease

Angina and Myocardial Infarction

4.9% of South Carolina adults reported that they had been told they had angina or heart disease. 4.3% reported that they had had a myocardial infarction or heart attack. Males reported more heart attacks than females.

Of those South Carolina adults who had had a heart attack or stroke, 34.5% said they had attended some type of rehabilitation clinic afterwards.

High Cholesterol

Of those who had had their blood cholesterol checked, 33.4% had been told their cholesterol was high.

